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## **PRESS CLIPPINGS**

Office of Program Resources Management

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### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #12 (SO12)**

**(Conflict Reduced in Mindanao and Other Areas Vulnerable to Violence)**

#### **Zamboanga gets new boat landing facility**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Two officials of the United States’ State Department in Washington DC visited Basilan recently to meet with local government representatives and to turn over a boat landing facility in Malamawi Island City.

The boat landing was constructed by US Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) program and is one of 800 small, community-based infrastructure projects GEM is building in Mindanao.

Barangay Carbon is the commercial center of Malamawi Island and the location of many business establishments. It is also the consolidated point for farm produce from adjacent areas that are transported to markets in Isabela City, Basilan’s capital.

“We are very impressed with how communities in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), especially here in Basilan, have made such a dramatic turn-around and are now participating in the development of your area,” said Angela Dick-

ey of the State Department. “With the peoples’ strong commitment, we will continue to do more for your region.”

The project benefits over 1,600 residents of Barangay Carbon and adjacent communities, and makes possible the safe and efficient loading and unloading of products and the transport of passengers.

Before their visit to Malamawi, the party visited the Christian Children’s Fund Office in Isabela City, a USAID-funded project that works with provincial health of-

fices to provide assistance in family planning and the diagnosis and control of tuberculosis.

Basilan’s Muslim Religious Leaders issued a religious edict supporting family planning in the Philippines.

With Dickey, the visiting team included William Comley of the State Department; USAID Philippines economic growth advisor Robert Barnes; US embassy political officer Stephen Worobec; and Livelihood Enhancement and Peace program (LEAP) manager Noel Ruiz.

**(Source: Philippine Star, 2/19/06, page 17)**